

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A sterilization apparatus includes a chamber in which a material to be sterilized is stored to sterilize the material by steam having a high
5 temperature and pressure. An opening/closing mechanism opens and closes the chamber. A cooling mechanism cools the material in a thermally isolated state from the inside of the chamber. A control section drives the cooling mechanism as the opening/closing mechanism
10 opens the chamber after the sterilizing step ends, thereby to cool the material.